



Bruce Rauner, Governor  
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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Unemployment Rates Decrease in Twelve Metro Areas

*Much of Downstate still suffering job losses*

### Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

| Metropolitan Area                    | July 2016 | July 2015 | Over-the-Year Change |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| Bloomington                          | 5.2%      | 5.2%      | 0.0                  |
| Carbondale-Marion                    | 6.0%      | 6.2%      | -0.2                 |
| Champaign-Urbana                     | 5.1%      | 5.5%      | -0.4                 |
| Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights | 5.6%      | 6.2%      | -0.6                 |
| Danville                             | 7.1%      | 7.4%      | -0.3                 |
| Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL  | 5.6%      | 5.4%      | 0.2                  |
| Decatur                              | 6.7%      | 7.8%      | -1.1                 |
| Elgin                                | 5.1%      | 5.8%      | -0.7                 |
| Kankakee                             | 6.1%      | 6.8%      | -0.7                 |
| Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI                  | 4.8%      | 5.3%      | -0.5                 |
| Peoria                               | 6.3%      | 6.8%      | -0.5                 |
| Rockford                             | 6.2%      | 7.8%      | -1.6                 |
| Springfield                          | 4.7%      | 5.3%      | -0.6                 |
| St. Louis (IL-Section)               | 5.7%      | 6.4%      | -0.7                 |
| Illinois Statewide                   | 5.6%      | 6.2%      | -0.6                 |

\* Data subject to revision.

**CHICAGO**—Twelve of Illinois' metropolitan (metro) areas experienced decreases in their over-the-year unemployment rate and eight of the metro areas had increases in nonfarm jobs, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES).

"Our job growth rate is still half that of the rest of the country," said IDES Director Jeff Mays. "Most of our job growth is concentrated primarily in the northeast corner of the state while downstate job growth continues to lag."

Illinois businesses added jobs in eight metro areas, in which the largest increases were seen in: Elgin (+2.1 percent, +5,300), Rockford (+1.9 percent, +2,900), and Lake-Kenosha (+1.6 percent, +6,800). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division increased (+1.2 percent or +44,900). Illinois businesses lost jobs in five metro areas including Carbondale-Marion (-2.5 percent, -1,400), the Quad Cities (-2.3 percent, -4,200), and Decatur (-1.5 percent, -800). The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metro areas were:

Retail Trade (nine of 14), Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities (nine of 14), Education and Health Services (eight of 14), Leisure and Hospitality (eight of 14), and Government (eight of 14).

Not seasonally adjusted data compares July 2016 with July 2015. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.6 percent in July 2016 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in July 2016 and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work, and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits. 658\*\*16

### Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – July 2016

| Metropolitan Area                                   | July 2016* | July 2015** | Over-the-Year Change |
|---|------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Bloomington MSA                                     | 91,500     | 92,800      | -1,300               |
| Carbondale-Marion MSA                               | 55,400     | 56,800      | -1,400               |
| Champaign-Urbana MSA                                | 106,500    | 105,000     | 500                  |
| Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division | 3,726,800  | 3,681,900   | 44,900               |
| Danville MSA  | 29,200     | 29,100      | 100                  |
| Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA                    | 181,100    | 185,300     | -4,200               |
| Decatur MSA   | 51,000     | 51,800      | -800                 |
| Elgin Metro Division                                | 261,200    | 255,900     | 5,300                |
| Kankakee MSA  | 44,300     | 44,300      | -0-                  |
| Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division           | 421,000    | 414,200     | 6,800                |
| Peoria MSA  | 178,000    | 179,100     | -1,100               |
| Rockford MSA  | 155,400    | 152,500     | 2,900                |
| Springfield MSA                                     | 114,600    | 113,400     | 1,200                |
| Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA                   | 233,000    | 232,500     | 500                  |
| Illinois Statewide                                  | 6,029,900  | 5,986,800   | 43,100               |

\*Preliminary \*\*Revised

- (continued) -



## Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates (percent) for Local Counties and Areas

|                     | Jul-<br>16 | Jul-<br>15 | Over<br>the<br>Year<br>Change |
|---------------------|------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Rockford MSA</b> |            |            |                               |
| Boone County        | 5.8%       | 7.5%       | -1.7                          |
| Winnebago County    | 6.3%       | 7.9%       | -1.6                          |
| <b>Cities</b>       |            |            |                               |
| Belvidere City      | 6.9%       | 9.5%       | -2.6                          |
| Freeport City       | 6.5%       | 8.1%       | -1.6                          |
| Rockford City       | 7.5%       | 9.6%       | -2.1                          |
| <b>Counties</b>     |            |            |                               |
| Bureau County       | 5.8%       | 6.4%       | -0.6                          |
| Carroll County      | 4.8%       | 5.2%       | -0.4                          |
| DeKalb County       | 5.1%       | 6.0%       | -0.9                          |
| Henry County        | 5.5%       | 6.1%       | -0.6                          |
| JoDaviess County    | 4.4%       | 4.9%       | -0.5                          |
| Kane County         | 5.1%       | 5.7%       | -0.6                          |
| Lee County          | 4.8%       | 5.5%       | -0.7                          |
| McHenry County      | 4.8%       | 5.4%       | -0.6                          |
| Ogle County         | 5.4%       | 6.4%       | -1.0                          |
| Stephenson County   | 5.5%       | 6.7%       | -1.2                          |
| Whiteside County    | 5.9%       | 6.6%       | -0.7                          |

### Stephenson County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.5 percent in July 2016 from 6.7 percent in July 2015. The last time the July rate was equal to or lower than the current rate was in 2007 when it was 5.0 percent. For the month of July 2016, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 1,200.

Total nonfarm employment increased by +175 compared to a year ago. Construction (+125), Government (+100), and Professional-Business Services (+75) added the most jobs from July 2015. The Financial Activities (-100) and Manufacturing (-100) sectors recorded employment declines compared to one year ago.

#### **Note:**

- Monthly 2015 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February 2016, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.

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## Rockford MSA Highlights

### **Help Wanted**

Area employers advertised for 5,100 positions in July and approximately 87 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board. It is a global, independent business membership and research association. Employers actually need more workers than the help wanted advertising indicates because some industries, such as construction, typically do not advertise job openings.

### Rockford MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 6.2 percent in July 2016 from 7.8 percent in July 2015. The last time the July rate was equal to or lower than the current rate was in 2007 when it was 5.9 percent. For the month of July 2016, the estimated number of people unemployed in the labor force was 10,800.

Total nonfarm employment increased +2,900 compared to July 2015. Professional-Business Services (+2,300), Retail Trade (+600), and Leisure-Hospitality (+300) sectors led other local industries in payroll gains. Construction (-200), Information (-200), and Educational-Health Services (-200) industries recorded the largest employment declines compared to one year ago.

### Ogle County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.4 percent in July 2016 from 6.4 percent in July 2015. The last time the July rate was equal to or lower than the current rate was in 2007 when it was 5.3 percent. For the month of July 2016, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 1,450.

Total nonfarm employment increased +375 compared to July 2015. The Manufacturing (+100) and Government (+75) sectors added the most jobs over the year. The Construction (-50) sector recorded a decline compared to one year ago.